

Allows people to carry firearms on all Corps of Engineering lands

Finally, the bill faces strong opposition by the Administration, which means if it is passed in its current form it will not become law.

The Administration strongly objects to the funding level of \$1.8 billion provided in the bill for renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and energy efficiency programs, a \$546 million reduction below the FY 2015 Budget request. This reduced funding level will stifle Federal investment in innovative clean energy research and development (R&D) at a time of significant global competition and progress.

The Administration objects to funding reduction in the bill such as the \$40 million reduction from the FY 2015 Budget request that would reduce the number of grants to academic investigators and funding for staff at DOE laboratories working on fundamental discovery science and research that underpins advances in clean energy.

Further, this reduction would also affect access to world class facilities used by researchers from all sectors to conduct R&D. The bill funds the international fusion project ITER, at a level \$75 million above the FY 2015 Budget request. In light of schedule delays and management reforms underway, the Administration is concerned that the U.S. contributions would outpace the readiness of the project.

The bill provides the Corps of Engineers' bill \$5.5 billion for works program, nearly \$1 billion above the FY 2015 Budget request. The FY 2015 Budget focuses on investments that would yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety. The Administration encourages the Congress to fund the civil works program at the requested level. The funding increase for the civil works program is provided primarily by decreases in other core priorities, including clean energy. The Administration also urges the Congress to permit the Corps to commence new starts in FY 2015.

The Administration strongly objects to sections 105 and 106 of the bill, which would prevent the use of funds to address deficiencies and regulatory uncertainties related to CWA regulations designed to protect important aquatic resources while supporting economic development.

Section 106 in particular would impact an important, ongoing Administration effort to provide regulatory clarity on which water bodies are covered by the CWA, which has been the subject of two Supreme Court cases in which the Court indicated the need for greater clarity regarding the statute's scope.

My service in the House of Representatives has focused on making sure that our nation is secure and prosperous. A central component of national security is the ability of our nation's international ports to move goods and into an out of the country.

With less than 50 legislative days remaining, I cannot support this bill and I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives work together to carefully manage our time and energy to make sure that the bills we past meet our obligations to the American public and can eventually become law.

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, which will help get people back to work in higher-wage jobs.

I want to commend Chairman KLINE and Subcommittee Chairwoman FOXX for their dedication and commitment to improving our nation's workforce training programs.

Our nation's current job training system is overly complex and failing hard-working Americans. Believe it or not, millions of jobs go unfilled simply because prospective employees lack the necessary knowledge and training. This bill will help address that challenge by bridging the gap between the skills workers have and those employers need, preparing workers to find good paying jobs.

This bill will also ensure hard-working taxpayers get more bang for their buck by demanding accountability and results from workforce training programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, which shows we can come together and move America forward when we set our partisan differences aside.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ALICE JANE BALLEW

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Alice Jane Ballew of Richmond, Kentucky for her commitment and service to the citizens of the City of Richmond and Madison County, Kentucky.

On the occasion of her 90th birthday, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Alice Jane Ballew for her many contributions to Richmond and Madison County, Kentucky, and in particular to the Pattie A. Clay Infirmary Association and to Baptist Health Richmond. Mrs. Ballew has provided more than a half century of volunteer service to the Infirmary Association and the hospital, and has served on the boards of trustees of both the hospital and its foundation.

Mrs. Ballew was recently awarded the Kentucky Hospital Association's Health Care Governance Leadership Award for her positive and sustainable impact on the quality of health care in Richmond and Madison County. She has also received the Community Service Award from Richmond's Chamber of Commerce, the Outstanding Service Award from Jewish Hospital in Louisville, the Outstanding Community Philanthropy Award and the Kentucky Hospital Association's Award of Excellence.

I am grateful to represent such an outstanding, civic minded constituent.

HONORING U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE JAMES TURK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of U.S. District Judge James Turk, a devoted public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who passed away on July 6, 2014.

Judge Turk grew up on a farm in Roanoke County, and graduated from William Byrd High School. He served in the U.S. Army, and went on to graduate from Roanoke College. He won a scholarship to Washington & Lee University School of Law, and went on to practice law in Radford for many years with the firm of Dalton, Poff, & Turk.

He served in the Virginia State Senate from 1959 until 1972, and was the Senate Minority Leader from 1965 until 1972. In October of 1972, Judge Turk was appointed by President Nixon to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. In 2002, 30 years later, Judge Turk claimed senior status but, though a successor was appointed at that time, he continued hearing cases.

I and others who have practiced before Judge Turk found him to be honorable, helpful, friendly, and very sharp. John Fishwick, a prominent Roanoke attorney who clerked for Judge Turk in the 1980s and has appeared before him in court, said, "He had one of the sharpest legal minds I've ever known, and he also cared greatly about the people who came before him. Those people mattered so much to him." Circuit Court Judge Clifford Weckstein wrote this week, "He loved coming to work. He loved his job. And his job, as he saw it, was to do justice, every day and in every way." And Tom Bondurant, a former assistant U.S. attorney now in private practice, said, "He had a fine sense of right and wrong, and he always tried to do what was right."

Judge Turk was involved in additional public service work and charitable work, including serving as President of the Roanoke College Alumni Association, membership in the Roanoke College Society of 1842, and on the Boards of Directors for the Radford University Foundation and the C.E. Richardson Foundation. He also was a trustee for the Radford Community Hospital. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Roanoke College in 1996 for his service and devotion to his alma mater.

He is survived by his brother, S. Maynard Turk and wife Pat; his beloved wife, Barbara Duncan Turk; his children, Ramona Turk, Jimmy Turk and wife Allison, Bobby Turk and wife Laura, Mary Turk Prince and husband Scott, Michael Turk and wife Barbara; and grandchildren.

Judge Turk was dedicated to his family, and was dedicated to his work. He was very well respected, a devoted public servant, and a noble defender of the rule of law. He had a tremendous impact on our community and upon countless individuals all across the region. Though Judge Turk will be greatly missed, his legacy and influence will long be remembered.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Turk's family and other loved ones at this time. May God give them comfort.